VZCZCXRO7353

PP RUEHAG RUEHAST RUEHBI RUEHCI RUEHDBU RUEHDF RUEHIK RUEHLH RUEHLN RUEHLZ RUEHNEH RUEHPW RUEHROV RUEHSK RUEHSR RUEHVK RUEHYG

DE RUEHAH #0743 1630813

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FM AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2964

INFO RUCNCLS/ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE

RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE

RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE

RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 5306

RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 3036

RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 2901

RUEHIT/AMCONSUL ISTANBUL 3550

RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC

RHMCSUU/CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL

RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC

RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC

RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC

RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC

UNCLAS ASHGABAT 000743

SIPDIS

STATE FOR SCA/CEN, EEB FOR GOETHERT AND BUTLER, L FOR **PEARSALL**

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: <u>CASC EINV KIDE OPIC PGOV TX</u>
SUBJECT: TURKMENISTAN: 2009 INTERIM REPORT ON INVESTMENT

DISPUTES AND EXPROPRIATION CLAIMS

REF: STATE 49477

The United States Government is aware of one (1) claim of United States persons against the Government of Turkmenistan.

- a. Claimant A

b. 2007 c. Claimant A signed a contract with the Ministry of Communications of Turkmenistan on May 27, 1998 to provide International Public Switched Telephone Service (speed digital circuits and voice grade circuits). Claimant A claims an accumulated unsettled debt arising out of this contract of USD 1,578,684. Despite numerous efforts -according to Claimant A's collection agency -- to negotiate Claimant A's claim with the Ministry, the dispute remained unresolved. According to the Claimant, at different times Ministry staff either denied that the contract existed, or claimed they had not received monthly billing notices.

In June 2007 the Embassy telephoned the Ministry to assist the Claimant in obtaining clarification of its reasons for not paying. The Ministry acknowledged its contract with Claimant A and that it has an outstanding debt to Claimant A, but said it disagrees on the amount it owes. The Ministry claimed that it does not have all the traffic reports (monthly billing notices) from Claimant A and that all reports (invoices) should be reconciled by the two parties in order for the Ministry to pay. The Embassy requested through Claimant A's collection agency that Claimant A supply all monthly billing notices. As of June 2008, Claimant A had not responded with the requested documentation. In June 2009, Claimant A told the Embassy that it will look for the monthly billing notices and will provide them to the Embassy as soon as they are located. CURRAN